



# U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Information

Press Service



Release - Immediate.

January 26, 1928.

## RETURNS FROM BANDED BIRDS RECORDED IN NEW BULLETIN

Returns from banded birds received by the Biological Survey during the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -year period July 1, 1923, to December 31, 1926, numbered 10,388 as compared with 1,746 in the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years from January 1, 1920, to June 30, 1923, the United States Department of Agriculture announces in a statistical bulletin compiled by Frederick C. Lincoln, associate biologist in charge of bird banding. The records are of much interest, the Biological Survey believes, as showing the remarkable growth of activity in the banding method of ornithological research and the increase in accomplishments of the thousand or more volunteer bird-banders who are cooperating with the bureau. Since the bird-banding work was taken over by the Biological Survey, nearly 270,000 birds have been banded, 234,692 of these during the period covered in the current report.

Students interested in this method of investigating the habits of birds, says Mr. Lincoln, will be aided by the appearance of these additional records, since with the rapid accumulation of the facts sought the time is not far distant when it will be possible to prepare reports concerning the migratory and other habits of certain individual species, based largely or wholly on bird-banding data. This method of study aids increasingly the solution of problems dealing with life histories and economic relations, as well as with feeding ranges, permanency of matings and consequent genetic matters, and the dispersal of young birds and its bearing upon distribution and extension of range of species.

Each published record includes the place and date of banding, the number of the band, and the place and date of recovery. The 93-page pamphlet just published also includes a list of localities in which the birds reported upon were banded and the names of the cooperators who attached the bands. Copies of the publication, Technical Bulletin 32-T, "Returns From Banded Birds 1923 to 1926," may be had free upon request addressed to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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